

*Chinese Astronomy.*

The Assistant-Secretary, Mr. Williams, has presented to the Society a MS. work, entitled, *Comets observed in China from B.C. 613 to A.D. 1640*. These observations have been extracted from Chinese works of authority, and are given with the original text. They are translated and arranged chronologically, with a full explanation of the several asterisms, described as occurring in the path of the comets. They are preceded by some introductory remarks in which the progress of Chinese astronomy is traced from between two and three thousand years before the Christian era to the present time. There is also an Appendix, containing chronological and other tables, required in the reduction of Chinese time to our reckoning, the construction and use of which tables are fully explained in the Introductory remarks, with numerous examples of their application. To facilitate the identification of the asterisms mentioned in the observations, a Chinese celestial atlas has been constructed, traced from an original work on astronomy. In this the thirty-one divisions into which the Chinese divide the visible heavens are laid down separately with the stars composing them, according to our nomenclature.

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*Communications to the Society from February 1869 to February 1870.*

1869.

- Mar. 12. Observations of the Transit of *Mercury*, 1868. Sir T. Maclear.  
           Ditto                               ditto                               Mr. Abbott.  
           Ditto                               ditto                               Mr. Barneby.  
 Occultations observed at Liverpool. Mr. Joynson.  
 On the Solar Eclipse of August 7, 1869. Mr. Hind.  
 On the Aden and Guntoor Photographs of Eclipse, 1868.  
           Mr. De La Rue.  
 Note on the Attraction of Ellipsoids. Mr. Cayley.  
 On the Meteoric Shower, Nov. 1868. Sir T. Maclear.  
 On the Transit of *Venus*, 1874. Mr. Proctor.  
 Rotation of *Mars*. Mr. Proctor.  
 On an extensive Train of Sun-spots. Mr. Browning.  
 On an Improved Mode of Mounting Finders. Mr. Browning.  
 On the Observations of the Transit of *Venus*, 1874.  
           Mr. Airy.  
 Personality in the Determination of the Line of Collimation in a Transit. Mr. Stone.

- 1870MNRAS...30...117.
- April 9. On the Determination of Longitude by the Electric Telegraph. Commander Ashe.  
 Note on an Aurora Borealis, April 2, 1869. Mr. Plummer.  
 On the Problem of the Determination of a Planet's Orbit from three Observations. Prof. Cayley.  
 Description of an Improved Driving-Clock. Mr. Kincaid.  
 On some Effect of the Comparative Clinging of the Limb of *Venus* to that of the Sun in the Transit of 1874, as compared with that of 1882. Mr. Stone.  
 On the Practical Speed of Electricity through 7200 Miles of Land Wire. Mr. Davidson.  
 Transit of *Mercury*, Nov. 1868. Mr. Nursingrow.  
 On Personality in Observing Transits of the Limb of the Moon. Mr. Dunkin.
- May 14. Opposition of *Mars*.  
 On a Method of Imitating the Transit of an Inferior Planet. Mr. Hollis.  
 On Mr. Joynson's Paper of Occultations. Mr. Plummer.  
 On the Solar Eclipse of August 1869. Mr. Paine.  
 Determination of the Direction of the Meridian with a Russian Diagonal Transit Instrument. Capt. Clarke.  
 On a Sun-spot observed May 1, 1869. Mr. Bidder.  
 Probable Error of Greenwich Observations in Zenith Distances estimated by Discordances from the Separate Means. Mr. Stone.  
 Observations of Winnecke's Comet. Mr. Wortham.  
 On the Period of *Argûs*. Prof. Loomis.  
 On ditto ditto Mr. Tebbutt, Jun.  
 On the Transit of *Venus*. Mr. Proctor.  
 On a Sun-spot, March 14, 1869. Mr. Browning.  
 On the Preparations desirable for Photographic Observations of Phenomena such as Transits of *Venus*. Col. Tennant.  
 Comments on the Preceding Paper. Mr. De La Rue.  
 On the Solar Eclipse of 1871. Col. Tennant.  
 Observations of Winnecke's Comet. Rev. S. Perry.
- June 11. Theory of the Tides. Mr. Ogilvy.  
 Occultations of Stars by the Moon. Mr. Joynson.  
 Note on the Transit of *Venus*, 1874. Mr. Hind.  
 On the Distribution of the Nebulæ. Mr. Proctor.  
 On the Nature of certain Appearances in Sun-Spots. Mr. Brayley.  
 On a simple form of Star Spectroscope. Mr. Browning.  
 Note on Lambert's Theorem. Mr. Cayley.
- Nov. 12. Note on the Floor of *Plato*. Mr. Birt.  
 Selenographical Notes, *Apennines*, and Adjacent Regions. Mr. Weston.  
 Lunar Eclipse of July 23, 24, 1869. Mr. Tebbutt.  
 On his New Observatory at Churt, Surrey. Mr. Carington.

- Occultations observed at Leyton. Mr. Talmage.  
 The November Star Shower, 1869. Mr. A. S. Herschel.  
 On some attempts to render the red prominences visible. Mr. De La Rue.  
 On the Solar Eclipse, 1869. Commander Ashe.  
 On a change in Colour in the Equatorial Belt of *Jupiter*. Mr. Browning.  
 On the Application of Photography to determining the Solar Parallax from Transits of *Venus*. Mr. Proctor.  
 On a Method of imitating the Transit of a Planet over the Sun. Rev. Dr. Robinson.  
 On the Solar Eclipse of 1869. Mr. Paine.  
 American Photographs, Total Solar Eclipse of 1869. Rev. T. W. Webb.  
 Dec. 10. Observations of the November Meteors, 1869. Lieut. Tupman.  
 Chinese Astronomy. Mr. Williams.  
 Determination of the Orbit of a Planet from Three Observations. Prof. Cayley.  
 On Annual appearances and their connexion with the Phenomena of Terrestrial Magnetism. Mr. B. Stewart.  
 A Method of constructing Charts by which in a few moments the great circle course between any two points may be accurately ascertained. Mr. Proctor.  
 1870. A New Theory of the Milky Way. Mr. Proctor.  
 Jan 14. Observations of Meteors, Nov. 13, 1869, in America. Mr. Davidson.  
 Observations of *Jupiter's* Satellites. Mr. Joynson.  
 On a Bright Cross Micrometer for measuring the position of lines in faint Spectra. Mr. Browning.  
 Occultation of Stars by the Moon. Captain Noble.  
 Summary of Sun-spot Observations made by the Kew Photo-Heliograph during 1869. Messrs. De La Rue, Stewart, and Loewy.  
 Seventh Catalogue of Double Stars observed at Slough, 1823-1829 inclusive, 84 of which had not been previously described. Sir John Herschel.